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# The Tech News Volume 4, Issue 23, March 17 1913

The Students of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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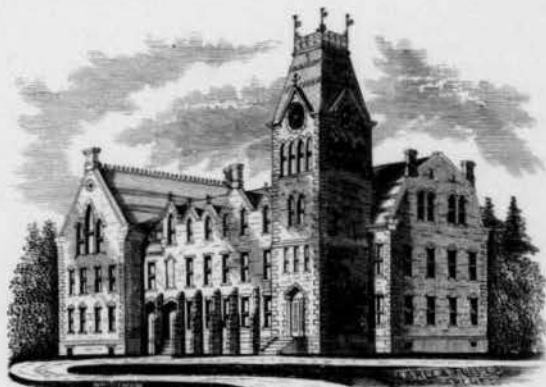
# TECH NEWS

CIVIL  
NUMBER

VOL. 4, NO. 23

WORCESTER, MASS., MARCH 17, 1913

PRICE, FIVE CENTS



BEFORE THE RENOVATION

## Junior Civil Prize

The splendid set of drawing instruments donated by the Technical Supply Co. of Scranton, Pa., for awarding to the student considered the best "all round" draftsman has this year been presented to A. S. Crandon of Acushnet.

This prize is annually awarded to a member of the Junior Class in Civil Engineering, in so far as the drawings produced by this class are of a more varied nature than those of the other classes and give the judges a better idea of each student's ability as an efficient draftsman.

The four instructors in the Department are judges of the award and the points considered in grading the work are accuracy, line work, lettering, dimensioning, neatness and general appearance.

Honorable mention was made of the drawings of H. L. Tilton, Fitchburg, and L. F. Berry, Dorchester.

## First Call for Track

About 30 men reported to Coach Charley O'Connor for spring track on the "merry-go-round" near Boynton St. last Wednesday in response to the call issued by Manager Ed Peirce. This is earlier than it has been the custom to start, but the inter-class meet comes the 19th of April this year, which is rather early. The reason for this change is that the relay team is practically assured of going to the Pennsylvania Relay Carnival on April 26th. A great deal of interest was shown by both the candidates and the spectators and, judging from the material, the prospects for a good team look particularly bright.

## The Cosmo Club

Held a social yesterday afternoon at the Club rooms at 2 Hackfeld Rd. Professor Ewell was the speaker.

## Civil Engineering Society

Mr. D. D. Scott, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the Institute of Mining Engineers will lecture before the Society next Friday evening, March 21, on "Surveying Instruments." Mr. Scott who is connected with the Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., will bring with him the most elaborate display of instruments ever seen on the hill including the most modern types used in the field today. During the lecture Mr. Scott will take the instruments apart and the audience will have the opportunity to examine them. This is an excellent chance for the men to get acquainted with the problems involving the make-up of the modern instrument as explained by an expert who has spent a life-time in its study. Freshmen especially, take advantage of this lecture; your course in surveying next year will be carried on with a better understanding.

## Notice

—From the Gazette—

MARRIAGE LICENSES

H. B. Woods, 2 Hackfeld Rd., 23, chemist, and Miss Ann Barton Wighton, 23, Youngstown, Ohio.

## Notice

We saw it in the *Telegram* also.

## Greetings from Chaffin's



## Read this One Twice--Too

My text this afternoon is Athletic Dues. Ever heard of it before? Yes.—Same old subject and more of it.

In a couple of years we are going to have a new Gymnasium. It is going to be a wonderful building—club rooms, library, dance hall, indoor running track, trophy room which will be well decorated, and all that. We are going to have a new Athletic Field that will put the one out at Holy Cross in the shade. It is going to comprise a football field, baseball diamond, quarter-mile cinder track, tennis courts and a grandstand for, perhaps, two thousand people.

As you all know, Professor Butterfield and other graduates have been working for years to further this idea until now it is in a state nearing reality. The big question, which presents itself to me, and I believe should to every one of you, is "Why is all this being done?" And to go a little further, it is a question you cannot answer.

Tech needs it?—That's an excuse, not a reason. Good advertisement for the school?—Bosh. Does she need that? Haven't we got now all the men we can accommodate? To give Tech a place where she can hold football games, baseball games, track meets, to a better advantage? No. Absolutely NO.

That vast improvement, the greatest in the whole history of the Institute, is going to be a memorial, dedicated to the spirit of loyalty that existed on the Hill ten, twenty years ago and has since passed away. There are men here who are real Tech men, and there are men here who are not. There are now as loyal fellows at the school as ever climbed the hill, but you know, one man, nor a dozen men, nor a hundred men, can't create loyalty and he can't maintain loyalty.

This lost spirit is a comparatively new catastrophe. Two years ago the class of 1914 (to become personal) utterly disgraced itself by paying up about one-fifth of its total athletic assessment. 1914 was looked down upon by upper classmen, she was being talked about and she was raked over the coals by the contributors to the News. She felt ashamed of herself. It was a disgrace unheard of. A crime committed by freshmen.

In an attempt to steal back her reputation, 1914 established a system of collecting freshmen athletic dues. It worked after a fashion and they had the satisfaction of seeing the next freshman class head the list in the financial race of the

following year. To-day 1914 has paid approximately seventy-five per cent of her total assessment. 1915 falls far below that and the freshmen foot the list with a possible twenty-five per cent.

Do you know what would happen to you—yes you are the man I'm talking to. Do you know what would have happened to you long ago had you been in any other school than Worcester Tech? You would either have paid that athletic assessment at the first call or your name might just as well have been shouted from the top of the chapel; men would stop to look at the fellow who had the nerve to call himself a college man; the news would not even have remained within the more or less secret circles of the college; every time you turned around that big dollar sign would be staring at you, and you would hustle to pay up that four dollars before the time should come when you couldn't look another man in the face.

Fellows, if we are going to college we ought to support that college. We ought to stand back of everything she does, and if we are not satisfied with what she believes we ought to get out and go somewhere where we'll be satisfied. It has been sufficiently demonstrated that Worcester Tech can't run anything in a half-hearted way such as our athletics have been laboring under for the last few years. I don't know why our athletic fee isn't sent out on the same bill with our tuition, the way they do in other colleges. Certainly it ought to be. There is no law and order about the present system of financing our athletics and we are neglecting, to the point of danger, one of the most important factors of college life.

We have got a baseball schedule arranged under the name of Worcester Tech that is going to be carried out. The baseball team is no charitable institution, and neither can it run around the country using its face for a ticket. It will take \$500 to finance it for the season. \$500 that we haven't got, and that ought to have come from the student body long ago. Not only that, but \$500 that should have come from the Freshman class alone.

We have a relay team this year that is going to run at the American Inter-Collegiate Carnival in Philadelphia if it costs each man who goes twenty-five dollars out of his own pocket. That team is going to win and the shout for Worcester is going to be heard from Boston to the other coast. They are going to compete with men from throughout the United States, from the University

Continued on page 3

# TECH NEWS

Published every Monday of the School Year by  
The Tech News Association of  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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All communications should be addressed to Tech News, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

All checks should be made payable to the Business Manager.

The Tech News welcomes communications but does not hold itself responsible for the opinions therein expressed.

All material should be in before Thursday noon at the latest in order to have it appear in the week's issue.

Entered as second class matter, September 21, 1910, at the postoffice at Worcester, Mass., under the Act of March 3d, 1879.

THE DAVIS PRESS  
38-44 Front Street

## Editorial

Personal letters have been sent by the editor to the heads of the departments inviting them to write in the News an article addressed to the freshman designed to assist him in choosing his course. The News will print these articles in the order in which they are received. We hope the plan will meet with faculty support and approval.

After all the Civils are looked up to for their awe-inspiring engineering prowess. As a measure of a nation's civilization civil engineering conquests are more tangible and real than mere intellectual advance, of which, however, they are the result. The audacity to plan, the ingenuity to overcome, and the perseverance that is baffled but not beaten—these things have made the Panama Canal possible. Here's to the Civil Engineer.

There is a feeling among certain students and faculty members that the News has done far too much fault-finding in the recent issues. We are accused of initiating a spirit of destructive criticism which

is sure to injure the best working of the Institute. There is good basis for this arraignment and the News can well afford to tell a few good things about the "general run" of affairs.

The News welcomes communications (accompanied by a disclosure of the author's identity) but we cannot hold ourselves accountable for the accuracy or spirit of these letters. When several communications on the same subject or subjects come in it is the practice to publish only the representative ones—preference always being given to typewritten articles.

There will be another Electric Number. The failure of the Electric Number to contain much Electric material was due to laxity of the Editorial Department in sending out the "touching appeals." The seed would have borne good fruit had it not been sown the day before harvest.

One more word about criticisms appearing in this paper—many have perhaps been puerile and several possibly uncalled-for but let's decide when we read them whether they deserve any attention or not and treat them accordingly. When they do—let's not have it out with the probable author or man on the News staff but write it up for next week.

No adverse criticism article has thus far been received with the Tech News for a test—are we perfect? Why "call" everybody and every activity—even to the stock-room—and not us?

## IMPUDENT INTERVIEWS, No. 3. P. O. Interviews the Editor

"Hello, Bull."

"Hello! got the Interview for next week so soon?" asked the editor.

"No," said P. O., a little dejectedly, "I was going to see Pa French for the Civil Number, but after the echoes of the last two rolled around I decided to interview you instead."

"They won't go, Bull; everybody takes them too seriously. I wish I had called them 'impossible interviews'—by making them Impudent I've made them impossible."

"Oh, but you can change the line; try the humorous vein," said Bull.

"Nope, never again," said P. O., mournfully.

(I made him an offer of \$1.35 for every husky word, too.—Ed.)

## TECHNICALITIES

Ira Nelson Hollis, Professor of Engineering at Harvard, has been visiting the Institute.

In a Government publication, issued by the Office of Public Roads (Bulletin No. 45), Feb. 20, 1913, we find "Data for use in designing culverts and short-span bridges." This publication is the work of the highway engineers in the Office, among whom is Mr. W. J. R. Weir, 1910, who prepared some of the drawings and was concerned also with computing the tables found in this pamphlet.

Comprehensive data on all of the ordinary forms of culverts, including the vitrified-clay pipe and stone box type, as well as typical reinforced concrete slab, T-beam and I-beam bridges are also given

Tables have been worked out giving dimensions, reinforcing (size and spacing) for ordinary concrete construction, which enable the engineer to pick out with little trouble such type and size of culvert as will meet the demands of his particular problem. Specifications of this kind of work as required by the Government is appended.

This field of Civil Engineering is growing rapidly—due to the efforts made by the government to better the roads and bridges—aided by appropriations made by the individual states as well as by Congressional legislation.

Since his graduation, Mr. Weir has traveled throughout the South making extended surveys in Tennessee, Georgia and Texas. Another Tech man also connected with this office is W. H. Rhodes, also of the class of 1910 who is now located in Washington, D. C.

## WHAT SOME OF THE CIVILS ARE DOING IN THE WORLD OF ENGINEERING

Mr. Roy W. Burpee, Civil, '09, was a recent visitor at the Institute, and left with the department a set of blueprints showing the principal features of a pair of travelers designed for the erection of the new Quebec bridge over the St. Lawrence River. Mr. Burpee, in his capacity as assistant designing engineer of the St. Lawrence Bridge Co., has had charge of the design of these travelers, and the work has covered a period of six months; Mr. Burpee will probably be engineer-in-charge of the operation of these travelers during the erection of the bridge.

A few dimensions will well illustrate the enormous size of these travelers. The top of the traveler is 188 feet above the base of the rails of the bridge. This height is sufficient to enable any member of the bridge to be placed, by the operation of one or more of the numerous derricks and traveling cranes with which the traveler is to be equipped. The wheel base of the traveler is approximately 67 feet, while traveling cranes on the top of the traveler have an extreme reach of 48 feet each side of the traveler. The distance from the base of the rails to the surface of the river is 200 feet, making the total height from the water level to the topmost part of the traveler 388 feet.

The travelers, of which there are to be two, are to be located one on each side of the river, so that the work may proceed simultaneously on both arms of the cantilever.

The Quebec bridge is notable in that it is to have the largest cantilever span of any bridge in the world. Its span of 1800 feet exceeds by 100 feet that of the Forth bridge in Scotland, hitherto the longest cantilever bridge in the world. The span of the Blackwell's Island bridge, New York City, the longest span cantilever in the United States is only 1182 feet. It is expected that the erection of the superstructure of the Quebec bridge will take about three years. The new bridge is to replace the one which fell several years ago, when only partially completed, entailing a heavy life and property loss.

E. H. Kidder, '09, who has been with the St. Lawrence Bridge Co., since graduation, visited the Institute last week, while en route to Chicago. He has accepted a position with C. A. P. Turner, the noted structural steel and reinforced concrete designer and engineer. Mr. Kidder will enter the structural steel department of that firm, this being the same line in which he was engaged while with the St. Lawrence Bridge Co.

The Civil Engineering Department has just received specifications and contract drawings for the Milk River Project, Montana, of the United States Reclamation Service, through the courtesy of Mr. Geo. O. Sanford, '95, Civil, who is project engineer for this particular job. Contracts have been awarded for the construction of about 90 miles of main canals which range in capacity from 100 up to 500 cubic feet per second. Drawings and specifications are now being prepared covering the construction of the laterals and structures to irrigate about 40,000 acres of land, all of which work will be

under way during the coming season, and will be finished early in 1914. In addition to this, the construction of the Vandalia Dam will be undertaken by the government forces. This will be a reinforced concrete structure about 28 feet in height, and with auxiliary spillways designed to pass floods up to 40,000 cubic feet per second.

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**Read This One Twice—Too**

(Continued from page 1)

of Maine to the University of California. Those men, some of them, never heard of W. P. I. but on the evening of April 26th their ears will ring with a cry that will send the name of Worcester down through the history of American Colleges forever.

If the Presidents of the several classes have not already said something regarding the critical financial condition of athletics, by all means do so now. Don't be merely a figure-head. **Start something** and do your share to pull this crowd of men out of a sleepy existence that is full of nothing but grind and that damnable desire to get 100 per cent of everything available for the almighty "I."

**Switches and Turnouts****A FEW THINGS ABOUT US**

It would be idle for us to boast of our greatness, for everyone knows that we are great; for how else would we have arrived at our present high station? Perhaps you wonder how it is there are so many of us left. That's the mystery; "nobody" knows.

The rest of the Civil bunch don't count, for they have yet to unravel the depths or heights of Astronomy and undergo the (distresses of) Framed Structures.

Now as to a few things about us. Though our brave band has gradually succumbed to exterior darkness, we still have a brave and shining light to help us on our way. I challenge any class to produce another "red-head" like our Gridley. And lest it be said we do not keep up our duties as citizens, let me introduce "Alderman" Brouwers, a dignified and learned young man! Then, too, we hear murmurs that "Ed" is soon to be next President of the United States. Can you beat that? While I am saying all these nice things it would not do to leave out "Li'l Arthur," our fair, fat, and fussy woman-hater. Although Arthur denies the ladies, there are those who are not saying all they know. Take Bradford, our elongated, emancipated and delapidated "Champion" bowler; he is a regular dog when the ladies are mentioned, and lest the Civils lose their prestige of always being up to the times, Donovan, our book-maker and "plunger" (in soup), is now taking odds that M—ll will give Woods a close run for first honors.

Did you ever hear of a "Spanish Athlete"? We have one, captured alive and brought up by hand,—the famed, "California Jack," player and holder of the long-distance gum-chewing record. I refer to N. Nutter, our friend from Maine where they also raise "spuds." Someone shouts the "Campbells are coming," and in walks Andy, our well-known fusser and rough-houser. Did you ever hear a Scotchman swear? Just get Andy mad.

Doc. Jacques has Doc. Cook beat when it comes to locating poles; he can find more poles that are not poles than the rest of us put together, but we all hand it to him. He sure can locate the pea-soups; that's his star line. There's a chap with us by the name of Burwell; he is not always with us for he is engaged in raising bugs and money for the "Aftermath." Ans is all right but he has got to stop laughing

at us in Arches. He doesn't take it, so thinks it is a joke, but it isn't—not by a long shot.

Lately our ranks have been thinned by the dread mumps. It started with "Old Scout," and he is passing them on, already having given them to his twin, Bobbie, and Lefty Louie is not reported out. Let me give you a word of advice, Pet; get a suit of armour, for if the mumps spread much farther, you will be spread over the horizon.

Did you see that shadow? That's "Deak," our meekest member. He chums with Pet; that's enough. To add to our heavy brigade is big Mac, the human fish, and sea captain. Then there is Pease, a sort of vegetable, comes from down Connecticut, but then he is getting acclimated. We could not leave out Fogarty, he is without question our "doll," would not think of looking like the "Waps" D. & C. Co., but then think of Mert's associates during the summer, all the high bloods, chefs, etc.

Our camera fiends are busy again and snapping things everywhere. Al is getting in a lot of good work; but think of the poor camera! Al, be reasonable. Bacon slipped one over up in "Heaven" the other day and it looks pretty good, but every time I write your name, "Bac," I get hungry, so let me get along.

However, when you think of all the rough-necks, thugs and parasites we have with us, it is a wonder our happy family exists as it does. To break the monotony we have Simmons, the strong Y. M. C. A. man, but then I heard him cuss down in lab the other day, so he will get by.

For fear I have forgotten anyone, I make all apologies to you, but then it is true, all I said about you, so if you want to trim me, you have got to run faster than I can, and I am some runner.

CIVIL, '13.

**SELF-READING APPARATUS**

The Civils are now able to determine the day of the week very easily through the kindness of instructor Knight. On Sunday he starts the week with a seven-inch cigar and mechanically he has become accustomed to smoke about one inch per day, so by estimating the length of the cigar, the day of the week is easily determined. All the civils take this opportunity to thank Mr. Knight and all hope that other self-reading apparatus be installed in the future.

The Senior Civils take great pride in one of its members who sometimes answers by the name of Pete Wilson. Pete has gained heaps of fame recently as a descendant of Woodrow Wilson and much of his time is now spent in writing autographs for Worcester girls.

**Compound Curve and Cross Over****TECH VS. WEST POINT**

Never since Tech played two games with Harvard in the fall of '88 have we met one of the big six football teams of the East. Next fall, however, unless unforeseen complications arise, the football team will journey to West Point, Nov. 1st, and once more try their luck with a big team.

West Point has lost but few games in the last three years; Yale being among those they have defeated. It is a well-known fact, however, that Tech always plays A I ball when up against a big team and the husky soldiers will not come up against such an easy proposition as they probably expect.

If we make a creditable showing in this game it will probably mean we will find a regular birth on the Army's schedule and an opportunity to get on the schedule of other large colleges.

**PLAZA**

Week March 17

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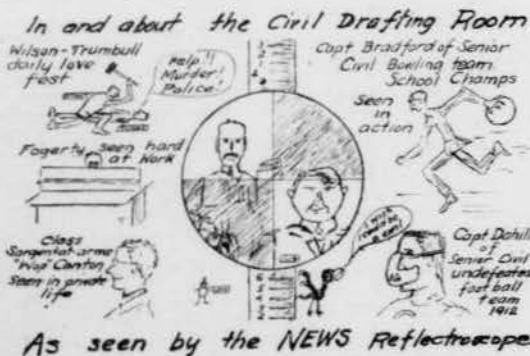
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IN AND ABOUT THE DRAFTING ROOM

## Geodesy

The Junior Civils have just commenced a study of the special instruments and methods now being employed by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in their precise triangulation and leveling work. An illustrated lecture is planned for in the near future at which time lantern slides will be shown illustrating this work considered of so great importance by the government engineers.

## Enters Partnership

## Starbird, '07, a Utilities Financier

The following announcement, recently received, will be of interest to friends of the Institute, as an indication of the continued success of one of its graduates, Mr. C. B. Starbird, of the class of 1907:

"Schuyler R. Schaff, a consulting engineer and specialist in Public Utilities, formerly of number five Beekman Street, New York City, and Chester B. Starbird, an electrical engineer of New York City, beg to announce the formation of a partnership under the firm name of S. R. Schaff & Co. The office will be in the Paul Jones Building, Louisville, Kentucky, on and after March the first, nineteen hundred and thirteen. The business will consist in the development, extension and operation of Public Utilities within operating distance of Louisville. The firm will finance utilities that show on examination a probability of development under the attention of its staff of engineers."

## COLLEGE SENATES

Last week, the News contained an article entitled "Wading," which unfortunately aroused some feeling in the Department to which it was applied. The News does not mean to antagonize but is honestly endeavoring to point out what it considers should be remedied. Several times we have urged the formation of a College Senate at which Faculty and Representative Students would meet and both sides of just such questions would be presented and then proper course decided upon, and as all would be in possession of all the facts, no hard feeling would be aroused. The establishment of waste paper receptacles, cleaning of walks, and, in fact the general appearance of the grounds also the fitting celebration of athletic victories and unified support of teams would come under the supervision of such a body. Again we urge that steps be taken for its immediate formation.

## CIVILITIES

Talk about that "auburn" haired imitator! We've got some star in Div. C! And as for P. Lab. reports, say!

At summer camp a new "White Hope" was discovered. Address all challenges to "Bergy."

In Geodesy: "Now, Mr. Kendall, be a good little boy."

Geodesy recitation room is no manicure parlor, "Hen."

## RAMBLES OF A JUNIOR C

You've heard the Civils called "rummy." You've heard some others say "rough." But when you consider "Gummy" That's certainly strong enough. Did you ever hear tell of "Willie," Little "Willie" from Norwalk town? A guy so well known—why 'tis silly! From the stage they spread his renown. Now when you think of "stick to it," Why that reminds one of glue. And if you would ask how to do it, Then "Salt" will show you a few. Debating is certainly thrilling. That's the way the Civils have felt. Our leader, "Charlie," is willing To try any man for the belt. Trouble ne'er comes without wooing. The Civils with peace are blest. But whenever there's anything doing Sure, Kendall is in at the first. Of men dramatic and fast Indeed we have not a few. So many, in fact, room restricts us To "Tillie" and "Richard," those two. A "Cherub" we have for our mascot. He's little but right at the bat. He always hits while the iron is hot. And you couldn't require more than that. We certainly all have our troubles, Least Squares, not the least, has gone past. But we grin when the lessons are doubles, We only have Joys in our class.

## COLLEGE NEWS

In Yale, Phi Beta Kappa elects to membership those who have an average standing of 330 on the work of the Junior and Senior years, 400 being the maximum.

Building operations at the University of North Carolina include a medical building and a dormitory.

Washburn has a new gymnasium at the cost of \$75,000.

The University of Denver's new science hall is a \$100,000 building.

The University of Pennsylvania is to have a new dental building, a graduate hall and an additional dormitory.

Radeliffe is adding another dormitory. Syracuse is expending \$75,000 in the erection of a dispensary.

The University of Oklahoma's administration building is ready for use. It is said to have cost about \$300,000.

Sloane Physical Laboratory and Wright Memorial Hall are being built at Yale.

Rapid progress is reported in the rebuilding of the \$3,000,000 memorial church on the Leland Stanford campus, which was so seriously injured in the California earthquake of a few years ago.

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His business had been on the blink  
for lo! these many years.  
He cut his clothes by rule of thumb,  
as many others do,  
And saved his thread by sewing  
seams with good Le Page's Glue.

And Mark said, sedee:  
Friends, Romans, Country-  
men. You all did see that on  
the Campus I thrice presented  
that Sophomore a suit of my  
clothes which he did thrice re-  
fuse. Has he ambish? Yes,  
too much ambish for me. He  
made reply that he would  
wear naught but

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Which he bought from

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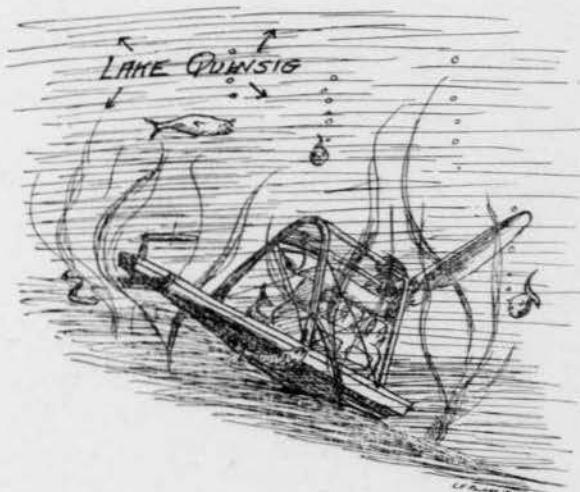
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"GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

## Technicalities

Prof. W. W. Bird, Director of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has thirty-three students in his advanced class of Shop Management. This number is made up of the Senior Class in Mechanical Engineering and three Post Graduate students. The work done in the subject is peculiar to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute as no other engineering college owns actual commercial shops. The fact that the Worcester Polytechnic Institute does, is taken advantage of in Shop Management work. The student is given access to the entire office accounts and is shown how to conduct a business not as a mere lecture room course, but in the actual work of an office handling a good volume of trade in machine tools. The results of this course have been to place the graduates from it in a class by themselves when they enter the business world. If it is for the purpose of teaching management and efficiency that the Institute shops are maintained and run upon a commercial basis.

W. B. Anthony, '15, and A. M. Vibbert, '13, represented the Institute at the 11th annual conference of Episcopalian students of the New England Colleges, held Washington's Birthday at Brown University. Mr. Anthony reported on the work being done at the Institute along Church lines.

T. F. Fisher, '96, has been appointed Director of the New Industrial School at Lowell. J. N. Fisher has for some years been head of the Manual Training Department of the Lowell High School.

Mr. C. R. Dooley, of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., was recently at the Institute for the purpose of interesting students to take up work with his company after graduation next June. Many Tech men have gone to the Westinghouse Company in the past, where they enjoy a high reputation for ability. Not a few of the important positions in the executive, engineering and sales departments are held by men from Worcester Tech. Mr. H. P. Davis, '90, is vice-president, T. H. Perkins, '93, is in charge of the detail and supply division of the engineering department, and only recently, Mr. G. M. Eaton, '96, has been made head of the railway division of the engineering department. Mr. C. S. Cook, '85, sales manager, is another graduate to hold a position of responsibility. Many others are doing excellent work in the engineering and sales departments, both at Pittsburgh and the various district offices, and are in line for future promotions.

Among the many papers recently presented to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, there are two by Messrs. S. W. Farnsworth and C. L. Fortescue. Besides being of more than general interest, on account of presenting matter which is new and in a field of importance, the fact that Mr. Farnsworth is a graduate of the Institute adds a still further interest. The first paper, appearing in the February number of the Proceedings of the A. I. E. E., deals with the sphere spark gap as a measure of very high voltages. The fact that this gap is much less affected by surrounding conditions than the needle point gap now specified in the Standardization Rules of the A. I. E. E., and consequently that it is much easier to secure consistent and reliable results with it, makes it probable that it will soon be substituted for the needle point gap in the standardization rules.

The second paper appears in the March number of the A. I. E. E.

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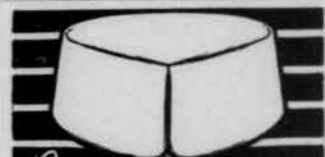
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Proceedings. It deals with the shaping of insulators of various kinds, to secure the greatest economy in material and space. More properly, it deals, not only with the shape of the insulator, but also with the shape of the electrodes as terminals, a matter of fully as great importance, which has heretofore been neglected.

In a somewhat limited way, on account of the time available, the thesis of Mr. W. C. Greenough, for the degree of Electrical Engineer, in 1912, deals with the same matter and as far as the work goes leads to the same conclusions.

The Junior Civil Engineers in their course in the Method of Least Squares have recently been engaged in the solution of the problem of finding the probable population of Massachusetts in 1920 and 1930. The equation expressing population is  $P = S + Tx - Vx^2$  where  $P$  represents the population at any time;  $x$  represents the time from a certain year considered as the origin;  $S$ ,  $T$  and  $U$  being constants to be determined. The populations actually considered were the ten year periods from 1780 and the values of  $x$  were expressed in decades. According to the empirical equation which the class deduced, the population of Massachusetts in 1920 will be 3,950,000 and in 1930, it will be 4,490,000. The results on a similar problem given last year for the population of Worcester showed that Worcester in 1910, theoretically, should have had a population of 146,000 in 1910 against an actual population of 145,956 and in 1920 and 1930 there should be populations of 181,990 and 221,610 respectively. The course this year is taken by twenty-five men and is given under the direction of Prof. H. C. Ives.

### PERSONAL NOTES

Earl A. Nettleton, '13, has been forced to leave the Institute on account of the serious illness of his father.

Philip A. Chynoweth, '16, has been ill with pleurisy and has gone home to recover. He will probably return next year.

### THE NECESSITY OF A C. E. BUILDING

The Civil Engineering Department has for some time been greatly cramped for room, and it is generally admitted that the next educational building at Tech is to be for the Civils. The registration in this department has advanced from 12 in 1898, to the present number, 87, divided as follows: Seniors 22, Juniors 33, and Sophomores 32. At present the quarters of the department consist of two recitation rooms, four offices, two drafting rooms and an instrument room in Boynton Hall, and a cement laboratory in the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory. Conditions are so fixed that both the Junior and Sophomore men are compelled to use the same drafting room, and because of the other narrow facilities the Civils are compelled to "borrow" the use of other rooms when they are not in demand by those entitled to them.

### NOTES

It is expected that the new railway valuation laws, which go into effect within a very short time, will afford openings to a great many young engineers since the work is of great magnitude, and its completion will take several years. The work is under the direction of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. is contemplating the establishment of an engineering corps, to take charge of all the problems which naturally arise during the construction and maintenance of its thousands of miles of lines. H. R. Frizzell, '11 Civil, and B. J. Halligan and C. P. Norton, both '12 Civils, are already actively engaged in this line of work, while Mr. M. C. Allen, '94, is the Superintendent of Plant of the Eastern Division of this company. This division includes all the New England and the North Atlantic states. The establishment of this proposed engineering corps will afford positions for many young engineers having one or two year's experience.

### ATTENTION, MEN!

An erroneous belief as to the proximity of make-up exams and the Tech Show has been gathering strength on the Hill. It was rumored that the play came on the night preceding the examinations and that this fact would bar many from attendance. The date of the Examinations is April 5, 1913 according to the catalogue and the Tech Show is one week later, April 11, 1913. We hope that this will be clearly understood by the men who have been convinced that they would be unable to attend.

### SEEN IN GRAPHICS

A Hub-Bell(e) kneeling to a T-square. Prof.—"You had better change your name."

Student—"That is easy."

A flourish of an eraser and this appeared on the board

H - - - - ell.

### MORE TECHNICALITIES

In the March issue of the "Political Science Quarterly," Prof. G. H. Haynes has an article, "People's Rule on Trial," analyzing the results of the November Election in Oregon.

### A Report

#### Good Advice from the Class of 1912

You all know or have heard of the course in Mechanics Lab. The first exercise consists of a lecture in which you are told that a few dollars must be invested in a typewriter, that mysterious instrument of torture, and the most important thing was the square if you did it yourself and the circle if you had a few friends around when you did it.

I am going to borrow the form given out in that course as a basis for this article.

So far I am on the ☐.

**Object:** The main object of this article is to satisfy a very pitiful and touching appeal that your editor handed me one day last week. The minor object is to tell some of the impressions that I have formed in the last seven or eight months since graduating from Tech.

**Apparatus:** You leave Tech with a lot of book learning, some practise, some common sense, (at least we all hope for that), and most of us have a swelled head of smaller or larger proportions.

**Description:** First comes the book learning. This has played its part in our education. We have training and have probably learned

where to find the formulae for any subject that we will run into. But you don't apply that knowledge very much. That is, not at first.

Secondly, comes the practical experiences. Some are fortunate to have worked in a shop before graduating. The general run of students have learned all they know about shops and shop work at the school. The practical end of the work is your first biggest help.

Common sense is the next item. To me, common sense is the result of thought and study more than some natural gift as many people seem to think. It comes on gradually, you make fewer and fewer hasty decisions, give more thought to the subject and draw more exact and correct conclusions. This is my idea of the way in which your amount of common sense increases.

The last item is the swelled head. This is a natural condition. If one has studied hard and attained a high standing, he naturally feels somewhat elated over it and generally lets others know about it. This is not quite so evident in the fellow that "just got by." When you are out working, the sooner you lose that swelled head or "know-it-all" feeling the quicker you are going to learn something from those with whom you are associated. If you think you know more than anyone else, why of course you will not listen to them. If on the other hand you are open to suggestions you will find that you can learn something from almost everyone with whom you come in contact. Thus ends the description.

**Observations:** When you take up a job, the crowd on the job hold you out at arm's length for inspection. During this period of inspection you either make or mar your reputation with that crowd. A good point to follow is to keep quiet, let the other fellow talk, be sure you are right, then go ahead and hold out for your views until they have been proved right, or, if wrong, acknowledge the mistake and accept the other solution cheerfully.

Another observation is that we all make mistakes. The saying is that a man that never makes a mistake is the man that never does anything. Your mistakes will not always be caught by the next person that looks at your work. I know of a case in point where a drawing went through at least six persons' hands and some expensive tools were made up before the mistake was discovered. It was a plain mistake that the first man that looked at the drawing should have discovered.

**Conclusions:** To conclude, I advise everyone not to forget the value of a smile. If things break wrong, don't look as though the world had gone to smash, but try to be cheerful and optimistic.

Be pleasant, talk little, learn much and work hard. This will get you by with as little friction as possible.

Here ends the report.

For a thing that springs mostly from badly digested misinformation, public sentiment is amazingly often right.—Puck.